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Page: 1
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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01891 011822Z
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2986
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PRIORITY
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
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☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
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CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ASEC, AR
SUBJECT: GOA ANNOUNCES FIVE-DAY DETENTION FOR CGT LEADERS
AND 100 OTHERS

REF: BA-1835

1. CONTRADICTIONARY REPORTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF
INTERIOR AND THE FEDERAL POLICE HAVE THE NUMBER OF
THOSE STILL DETAINED AFTER TUESDAY'S STREET DEMONSTRATIONS
AT 170 AND 102, RESPECTIVELY. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT 100 PERSONS OF THOSE NOW DETAINED,
INCLUDING CGT LEADERS SAUL UBALDINI, RICARDO PEREZ,
HORACIO ALONSO AND CESAR LOZA WILL BE HELD FIVE DAYS.
CGT LEADERS JOSE RODRIGUEZ, LESIO ROMERO, HUGO CURTO
AND RICARDO PECORA REPORTEDLY WERE FREED. THE POLICE
ANNOUNCED THAT SOME PEOPLE STILL HELD HAVE PREVIOUS
POLICE RECORDS WHILE OTHERS ARE ACCUSED OF BEING LEFT-
WING POLITICAL ACTIVITIS. UNIDENTIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 01891 011822Z

OFFICIAL SOURCES REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE TOTAL NO.
OF PERSONS DETAINED DURING THE DISTURBANCES WAS 2,074.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
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Document Number: 1982BUENOS01891

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

THE CGT HAS ESTABLISHED AN EMERGENCY COMMISSION TO CONSIDER MEASURES THE ORGANIZATION MAY TAKE "REGARDING THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF ITS LEADERSHIP". MEANWHILE, THE CGT'S RIVAL CONFEDERATION, THE CNT-20 INTERSECTORIAL, ANNOUNCED ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS WHO ARE DETAINED AND DECLARED ITSELF IN EMERGENCY SESSION.

2. RUMOURS OF DEATHS IN MENDOZA CITY DURING STREET DEMONSTRATIONS WERE DENIED BY GOVERNOR CEJUELA AND THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHICH ANNOUNCED THAT, OF THE FIVE PERSONS WOUNDED BY GUNSHOTS IN MENDOZA, FOUR ARE OUT OF DANGER AND ONE CONTINUES IN SERIOUS CONDITION. CEJUELA ALSO DENIED THAT HE OR HIS CABINET HAD RESIGNED, ALTHOUGH ONE ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR DID RESIGN OVER THE ISSUE OF POLICE REPRESSION. MEANWHILE, THE PROVINCIAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF MENDOZA ANNOUNCED THAT THE POLICE WERE UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE LOCAL ARMY COMMANDER AT THE TIME OF THE DISTURBANCES, SUGGESTING AN ATTEMPT TO SHIFT BLAME FOR THE POLICE EXCESSES. FOURTH CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL LLAMIL RESTON ARRIVAL IN MENDOZA MARCH 31 TO REVIEW THE SITUATION WITH THE LOCAL ARMY COMMANDER. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS WITHIN THE GOA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MENDOZA OVER WHAT UNDER-SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR COL. BERNARDO MENENDEZ DESCRIBED AS THE "INTEMPERANCE" OF SECURITY FORCES CONDUCT DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN MENDOZA. MENENDEZ, B.A. DAILY "LA NACION" CLAIMS, IS UPSET IN GENERAL THAT THE SECURITY FORCES APPARENTLY EXCEEDED THEIR INSTRUCTIONS IN ATTEMPTS TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BUENOS 01891 011822Z

CONTROL THE DEMONSTRATORS.

3. ACCORDING TO CGT SOURCES, 30 TO 50,000 PEOPLE TURNED OUT THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CAPITAL, WHILE UNOFFICIAL POLICE ESTIMATES REPORTED IN THE PRESS PLACE THE NO. AT NO MORE THAN 15,000 KNOWLEDGEABLE PRESS SOURCES ACCEPT THIS LOWER FIGURE AS MORE ACCURATE.

4. NEWS COVERAGE OF THE DISTURBANCES AND THEIR AFTERMATH HAS BEEN COMPREHENSIVE IN THE PRESS, AND SPOTTY ON THE RADIO. HOWEVER, THE EVENTS WERE SUBJECT TO A NEWS BLACKOUT ON TV, WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1982BUENOS01891

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

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